

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions of claims in the application.

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A server, comprising:

a processing device; and

a storage unit storing identification information and address information of a system of billing a user for an amount, the amount based on a predetermined total length of time, wherein the processing device includes:

a communications process unit performing a communicating process through a network with a user device and the system;

a retrieving process unit retrieving the address information of the system corresponding to identification information received from the user device, from the storage unit;

an obtaining process unit obtaining billing charge information requested by the user from the system with the address information retrieved by the retrieving process unit;

a transmitting process unit transmitting the billing charge information to the user device;
and

a payment process unit performing a payment according to a request for payment from the user device and transmitting a lock release request for releasing a lock of the system [[with]] having the retrieved address information, to the system having the retrieved address information.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): A server, comprising:

- a processing device; and
- a storage unit storing identification information and address information of a system of billing a user for an amount, the amount based on a predetermined total length of time, wherein the processing device includes:
 - a communications process unit performing a communicating process through a network with a user device and the system;
 - a retrieving process unit retrieving the address information of the system, corresponding to identification information received from the user device, from the storage unit;
 - an obtaining process unit obtaining current use information relating to a use of the system with the address information retrieved by the retrieving process unit, from the system;
 - a receiving process unit receiving notification timing information relating to a timing of notifying the user device of the current use information; and
 - an information providing unit transmitting the obtained use information to the user device according to the notification timing information received from the user device and transmitting a lock release request for releasing a lock of the system [[with]] having the retrieved address information, to the system having the retrieved address information.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The server according to claim 2, wherein when the payment is made in a pre-payment system for a predetermined time, a message is transmitted to the user device at any time before the predetermined time elapses.

Claim 4 (Canceled)

Claim 5 (Canceled)

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): A system use support method for a computer comprising a storage unit, the computer performing:

receiving identification information of a system of billing a user for an amount, the amount based on a predetermined total length of time, and user information from a user device;

retrieving address information of the system, corresponding to the identification information received from the user device, from the storage unit;

obtaining current use information relating to a use of the system with the retrieved address information, from the system;

receiving notification timing information relating to a timing of notifying the user device of the current use information; and

transmitting the obtained use information to the user device according to the notification timing information received from the user device; and

transmitting a lock release request for releasing a lock of the system [[with]] having the retrieved address information, to the system having the retrieved address information.

Claim 7 (Original): The method according to claim 6, wherein said system of billing a user by a predetermined time is a parking meter, and the charge is a parking charge for use of the parking meter.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A computer-readable storage medium storing a program used to direct a computer to perform the steps comprising:

- performing a communicating process through a network with a user device and a system;
- performing a payment by communicating with the system of billing a user by a predetermined time, and obtaining charge information from the system through the network;
- retrieving address information of the system, corresponding to identification information received from the user device, from a storage unit;
- obtaining current use information relating to a use of the system with the address information, from the system;
- receiving notification timing information relating to a timing of notifying the user device of the current use information; and
- transmitting the obtained use information to the user device according to the notification timing information received from the user device; and
- transmitting a lock release request for releasing a lock of the system ~~[[with]]~~ having the retrieved address information, to the system having the retrieved address information.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A computer-readable storage medium storing a program used to direct a computer to perform the steps comprising:

performing a communicating process through a network with a user device and a system;
retrieving address information of the system, corresponding to identification information received from the user device, from a storage unit;

obtaining current use information relating to a use of the system with the retrieved address information, from the system;

receiving notification timing information relating to a timing of notifying the user device of the current use information; and

transmitting the obtained use information to the user device according to the notification timing information received from the user device; and

transmitting a lock release request for releasing a lock of the system ~~[[with]]~~ having the retrieved address information, to the system having the retrieved address information.

Claim 10 (Original): The storage medium according to claim 8, wherein said system of billing a user by a predetermined time is a parking meter, and the charge is a parking charge for use of the parking meter.

Claim 11 (Original): The storage medium according to claim 9, wherein said system of billing a user by a predetermined time is a parking meter, and the charge is a parking charge for use of the parking meter.

Claim 12 (Canceled)

Claim 13 (Canceled)

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): A server, comprising:

a processing device; and

a storage unit storing identification information and address information of a system of billing a user for an amount, the amount based on a predetermined total length of time, wherein the processing device includes:

a communications process unit performing a communicating process with a user device through a network;

an information providing unit obtaining use information about a user who uses a system of billing a user for an amount, the amount based on a predetermined total length of time, determining a transmission timing of a message according to the obtained use information, and transmitting the message to the user device through the network with the transmission timing;

a payment unit for making a payment at a payment request from the user device;

a retrieving process unit retrieving the address information of the system, corresponding to identification information received from the user device, from the storage unit;

an obtaining process unit obtaining current use information relating to a use of the system with the address information retrieved by the retrieving process unit, from the system;

a receiving process unit receiving notification timing information relating to a timing of notifying the user device of the current use information; and

an information providing unit transmitting the obtained use information to the user device according to the notification timing information received from the user device and

transmitting a lock release request for releasing a lock of the system ~~[[with]]~~ having the retrieved address information, to the system having the retrieved address information.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): A computer-readable storage medium storing a program used to direct a computer to perform the steps comprising:

performing a communicating process with a user device through a network;

obtaining use information about a user who uses a system of billing a user for an amount, the amount based on a predetermined total length of time, determining a transmission timing of a message according to the obtained use information, and transmitting the message to the user device through the network with the transmission timing; and

making a payment at a payment request from the user device;

retrieving address information of the system, corresponding to identification information received from the user device, from a storage unit;

obtaining current use information relating to a use of the system with the retrieved address information, from the system;

receiving notification timing information relating to a timing of notifying the user device of the current use information; and

transmitting the obtained use information to the user device according to the notification timing information received from the user device; and

transmitting a lock release request for releasing a lock of the system ~~[[with]]~~ having the retrieved address information, to the system having the retrieved address information.

Claim 16 (Canceled)

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): A server, comprising:

a processing device; and

a storage unit storing identification information and address information of a system of billing a user for an amount, the amount based on a predetermined total length of time, wherein the processing device includes:

communications process means for performing a communicating process through a network with a user device and the system;

payment process means for performing a payment by communicating with the system of billing a user for up to a predetermined total time, and obtaining charge information from the system through the network;

a retrieving process unit retrieving the address information of the system, corresponding to identification information received from the user device, from the storage unit;

an obtaining process unit obtaining current use information relating to a use of the system with the address information retrieved by the retrieving process unit, from the system;

a receiving process unit receiving notification timing information relating to a timing of notifying the user device of the current use information; and

an information providing unit transmitting the obtained use information to the user device according to the notification timing information received from the user device and transmitting a lock release request for releasing a lock of the system ~~[[with]]~~ having the retrieved address information, to the system having the retrieved address information.